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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/23/2017
TAGS: [PREL](#) [UNSC](#) [BM](#) [CH](#) [JA](#)
SUBJECT: JAPAN'S RESPONSE ON NEXT STEPS ON BURMA

REF: STATE 20000

Classified By: Political Minister Counselor W. Michael Meserve For Reas
ons 1.4 (b) and (d).

(C) Embassy Political Officer delivered information received in reftel to MOFA First Southeast Asia Division Principle Deputy Director Atsushi Kuwabara on February 23. Kuwabara stated that Japan at this time cannot commit to supporting the appointment of a Special Envoy to Burma and asked if the United States had a particular candidate in mind. Japan's support for a Special Envoy would depend on the particular candidate and the ideal candidate would need to be able to bridge the gap between the Burmese government and the West, he stated. A multifaceted approach to promote national reconciliation, respect for human rights, and a transition to democracy in Burma is critical. It is very important for the international community to not appear divided. For that reason, Japan hopes China will play a more constructive role in this process, he added.
DONOVAN